



Aruba's Red Cross opens its doors for their annual Coffee Klatch

This past Sunday was an interesting morning of emergency medical care awareness and prevention at the Aruba Headquarters in Dakota of the International Red Cross. Marieta Wanopa, Commandant of the Red Cross along with Board President Greg Peterson and volunteers welcomed the public for the fundraising event.

For those that had never visited the facility when they display and explain all they do, it was a revelation. Health testing of blood pressure, glucose, and BMI were available for a small donation, as was an assortment of favorite Aruban snacks and sweets. Volunteers staffed a very tempting table of cakes and cookies, which would certainly send those blood sugar test results off the charts!

Visitors had the opportunity to become donating members of the Red Cross, which awards them with not only doing a community service, but several print outs on how to handle emergencies and other information. The Red Cross also offers internationally recognized courses in CPR and First Aid Training as well as full EMT certification. They are starting a number of courses quite soon, and those interested in inscribing can visit their headquarters or call the numbers listed at the end of this article.

For a very limited time the Red Cross is selling copies of the beautiful book "Aruba Cooks" by Linda Shapiro. This normally sells at island bookstores for \$60 (U.S.) but bargain hunters can take advantage of Linda's donation of twenty-four volumes of her popular cookbook and purchase it through the Red Cross for only \$30 U.S. This special price, which will entirely go to Aruba's Red Cross, is only available through them, and Marieta promised they will deliver orders to hotels for island visitors. Call Marieta at 582-1471 or 963-2903 to get your copy while they last.

Aruba's Red Cross is strictly a volunteer organization and survives on donations from businesses and concerned citizens. The highly trained and motivated volunteers do a fine job, even better now with a brand new ambulance thanks to Valero Refinery in cooperation with a number of local vendors. The Coffee Klatch provided an enlightening window into all they accomplish, and the necessity of their support by the community. For more information about the classes and services of the Red Cross, and to offer support call them at 582-2219 or 588-2665.